

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 10142 171111Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10142

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, EG
SUBJECT: ECONOMIC PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT PROCESS

REF: (A) STATE 138824, (B) CAIRO 9814

1. WE HAVE NOT HEARD ANY "RUMORS" THAT KAISSOUNI AND HIS ASSOCIATES MAY BE REMOVED BY SADAT IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. NOR HAVE ANY OF OUR CLOSEST DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES. DO NOT KNOW WHERE BENJENK GOT HIS INFORMATION. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, KAISSOUNI'S POSITION REMAINS STRONG. WORRY THAT WE ALL HAVE IS THAT HIS POOR STATE OF HEALTH WILL AT SOME TIME REQUIRE HIM TO LEAVE OFFICE. IF HE DOES, HIS TWO PROTEGES, MINECON HAMID EL-SAYIGH AND MINFIN MAHMOUD SALAH EL DIN HAMED, MIGHT WELL ALSO RESIGN. BUT AS OF NOW KAISSOUNI, EL-SAYIGH AND HAMED ALL ACT AS IF THEY EXPECT TO STAY ON. ALL THREE ARE COMING TO THE RESIDENCE ON SUNDAY NIGHT FOR DINNER IN HONOR OF GOVERNOR GILLIGAN. WILL TRY TO SOUND THEM OUT AT THAT TIME TO ASCERTAIN IF THERE IS ANY CHANGE IN THEIR PLANS.

2. FROM ALL INDICATIONS, MINPLAN ABDEL MEGUID WILL INDEED LEAVE IN NEXT FEW WEEKS TO ASSUME UN POSITION. HE HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT DOING SO FOR PAST SIX MONTHS. DEPT WILL RECALL THAT FORMER PRIMIN HEGAZY PERSUADED
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ABDEL MEGUID TO LEAVE IBRD TO BECOME HIS PERSONAL ASSISTANT. EVER SINCE HEGAZY LEFT OFFICE, ABDEL MEGUID HAS WANTED TO RETURN TO SOME UN JOB. HE HAS BEEN DICKERING FOR THIS FOR SOME TIME. HIS CRITICS CHARGE HIM WITH HAVING ACCEPTED MINPLAN PORTFOLIO SIMPLY TO BOLSTER HIS PROSPECTS OF GETTING GOOD UN POSITION. THAT MAY WELL BE SO. IN FAIRNESS TO ABDEL MEGUID, HE

ALWAYS SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT TO BE IN HIS MINPLAN
JOB FOR LONG.

3. ABDEL MEGUID'S RESIGNATION IS REGRETTABLE, BUT IT IS
HIS DECISION. SADAT, PRIMIN AND KAISSOUNI DOUBTLESS
REGRET HIS DECISION DESPITE ABDEL MEGUID'S OCCASIONAL
FREE WHEELING TENDENCIES AND HAVE, WE UNDERSTAND, URGED
HIM TO RECONSIDER. HOWEVER, HE SEEMS DETERMINED FOR
FINANCIAL AS WELL AS OTHER REASONS TO GO BACK TO UN.
I SEE LITTLE PURPOSE IN A DEMARCHE BY US OR BY WORLD
BANK TO SADAT TO PREVENT ABDEL MEGUID FROM GOING TO UN.
IN UNLIKELY EVENT WE SUCCEEDED, GOE WOULD HAVE A SOURED
MINPLAN ON ITS HANDS. INSTEAD OUR EFFORTS SHOULD BE
DIRECTED AT GETTING SADAT TO APPOINT A STRONG MAN TO
SUCCEED ABDEL MEGUID AS MINPLAN. NAMES BEING BANDIED
ABOUT ARE FORMER PRIMIN HEGAZY, FORMER EGYPTIAN IMF
DIRECTOR DHIAF.

4. WHETHER OR NOT MACNAMARA SHOULD COMMUNICATE WITH
SADAT OR VISIT EGYPT NOW IS SOMETHING FOR IBRD TO
DECIDE. DOUBT THAT MACNAMARA COULD DO MUCH TO CHANGE
ABDEL MEGUID'S INTENDED DEPARTURE. SINCE WE QUESTION
BENJENK'S "RUMORS" ABOUT IMMINENT REMOVAL OF KAISSOUNI
AND ASSOCIATES, MACNAMARA VISIT HARDLY NECESSARY FOR
THIS PURPOSE. HOWEVER, A LETTER FROM MACNAMARA TO
SADAT OR PRIMIN EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR PROGRESS
BEING MADE BY KAISSOUNI AND ASSOCIATES IS ALWAYS LIKELY
TO BE HELPFUL TO THEM. MACNAMARA MIGHT ALSO MENTION
NEED FOR STRONG REPLACEMENT FOR ABDEL MEGUID.
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5. WILL ADVISE IF WE HEAR ANYTHING THAT SUGGESTS
DRASTIC CHANGES IN GOE ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP.
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